



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 427**

February Session, 2002

Substitute House Bill No. 5638

*House of Representatives, April 10, 2002*

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. DYSON of the 94th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH AUTISTIC DISORDER OR ASPERGER'S DISORDER.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) The Commissioner of Social
- 2 Services shall apply for any federal funding available for treatment of
- 3 persons diagnosed with, or at risk for, Autistic Disorder or Asperger's
- 4 Disorder, as defined in the most recent edition of the American
- 5 Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental
- 6 Disorders".

This act shall take effect as follows:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
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**HS** Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP

**APP** Joint Favorable

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:**

<b>Fund-Type</b>	<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Current FY \$</b>	<b>FY 03 \$</b>	<b>FY 04 \$</b>
GF - Cost	Dept of Social Services	-	Minimal	Minimal

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to apply for any available federal funding for treatment of people diagnosed with Autistic Disorder or Asperger's Disorder. DSS will likely incur additional administrative costs in any such application process. However, such potential costs are expected to be minimal.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 5638

***AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH  
AUTISTIC DISORDER OR ASPERGER'S DISORDER*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the commissioner of social services to apply for any federal funding that is available for treating people diagnosed with, or at risk for, Autistic Disorder or Asperger's Disorder, as currently defined in the American Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)."

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2002

**BACKGROUND*****Autistic and Asperger's Disorders***

The DSM-IV (the most recent edition) states that the essential features of Autistic Disorder are the presence of markedly abnormal or impaired social interaction and communication development. Its manifestations vary greatly, depending on the individual's age and developmental level. By definition, onset occurs before the age of three. In most cases, there is an associated diagnosis of mental retardation, commonly in the moderate range (IQ 35-50).

For diagnosing Asperger's Disorder, the DSM states that the essential features to look for are severe and sustained impairment in social interaction and the development of restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, and activities.

Asperger's can be distinguished from Autistic Disorder by the lack of delay in language development in the former. Likewise, the functional adaptive skills of someone with Asperger's are much higher than they are for someone with Autistic Disorder.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 13      Nay 5

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 49      Nay 0